

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

CV 13

5189

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JOSEPH LOFTON

Plaintiff,

**COMPLAINT AND
JURY DEMAND**

-against-

THE CITY OF NEW YORK, NEW YORK CITY
POLICE DEPARTMENT, DETECTIVE EDWARD
SINCLAIR SHIELD NUMBER 5116,
DETECTIVE WARREN ROHAN SHIELD NUMBER 2378,
UNDERCOVER POLICE OFFICER NUMBER C0238,
UNDERCOVER POLICE OFFICER NUMBER C0120,
POLICE OFFICERS JOHN DOE NUMBER 1 THROUGH 6
in their individual and official capacities as employees
of the City of New York Police Department
Defendants.

WEINSTEIN, J.

POLLAK, MJ

U.S. DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT
OF NEW YORK

SEP 18 PM 12:57

FILED
CLERK

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The Plaintiff, Joseph Lofton, by his attorney, Amy Rameau Esq., of The Law Office of
Amy Rameau, alleges the following, upon information and belief for this Complaint:

NATURE OF THE ACTION / PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

1. This is a civil rights action for money damages brought pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §§ 1981, 1983, and 1988, the Fourth, Fifth, and Fourteenth Amendments of the United States Constitution, Article I, Sections 6, 11, and 12 of the Constitution of the State of New York, and the common law of the State of New York, against the City of New York, the New York City Police Department, and against Detective Edward Sinclair Shield No. 5116, Detective Warren Rohan Shield No. 2378 and undercover police officer No. C0238 and undercover police officer No. C0120, Police Officers John Doe No. 1 through No. 6, police officers of the City of New York, in their individual and official capacities. Plaintiff seeks compensatory and punitive

damages, affirmative and equitable relief, an award of attorneys' fees and costs, and such other relief as this Court deems equitable and just.

JURISDICTION

2. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over the federal claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1331 and 28 U.S.C. §1343 (3) and (4). Plaintiff also asserts jurisdiction over the City of New York under 28 U.S.C. §1331 and §1367. Plaintiff requests that this Court exercise pendent jurisdiction over those state law claims arising out of the same common nucleus of operative facts as plaintiff's federal claims.

VENUE

3. Under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(a),(b),(c), venue is proper in the Eastern District of New York.

PARTIES

4. Plaintiff at all times relevant hereto resided in the City and State of New York.

5. That at all times hereinafter mentioned, and upon information and belief, the defendant, THE CITY OF NEW YORK, was at all times relevant hereto, a municipal corporation duly organized and existing pursuant to the laws, statutes and charters of the State of New York.

6. THE NEW YORK CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT was at all times relevant hereto, an agency of the defendant THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

7. That at all times hereinafter mentioned, and on information and belief, the defendant Detective Edward Sinclair and all additional defendant Police Officers, were at all times relevant hereto, employees of the defendant CITY OF NEW YORK, as police officers employed by the defendant, THE NEW YORK CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT.

8. At all times mentioned herein, defendants were acting under color of state and local law, to wit, under color of statutes, ordinances, regulations, policies, customs and usages of the City of New York and the State of New York.

9. That at all times hereinafter mentioned, and upon information and belief, the individual defendants are named herein both personally and in their official representative capacities as police officers employed by the defendants, THE CITY OF NEW YORK and THE NEW YORK CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT. And that each and all of the acts of the individual defendants alleged herein were done by the individual defendants and each of them under cover and pretense of the statutes and laws of the State of New York, and under and by virtue of their authority as police officers and employees of defendant, THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

10. That as a result of the foregoing, the defendant, THE CITY OF NEW YORK, is liable for the individual defendant's acts pursuant to the doctrine of "respondeat superior."

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

11. Plaintiff is an elderly African-American single male.

12. On September 26, 2012, Mr. Lofton was verbally abused and, without justification, was forcibly assaulted and sustained blunt force trauma by a number if not all of the aforementioned officers, causing him to sustain serious physical injuries during his arrest by NYPD officers named herein, and subsequently booked. He was subjected to additional violations of his rights and liberty.

13. Upon information and belief, the plaintiff posed no threat to any police officer.

14. Upon information and belief, the plaintiff posed no threat to any citizens.

15. All of the above was done in violation of state and federal law.

16. DETECTIVES EDWARD SINCLAIR and WARREN ROHAN along with other POLICE OFFICERS mentioned herein employed unnecessary and unreasonable force against the plaintiff.

17. On September 27, 2012, Mr. Lofton was arraigned under Kings County Criminal Court Docket 2012KN080823 . He was made to withstand the pain of his many injuries without any medical attention.

18. Mr. Lofton later appeared in Kings County Supreme Court Part 50, where he entered a plea to a lesser included charge.

19. At the time of his arrest, Mr. Lofton was attacked and assaulted by the officers named herein and others. As a result of this assault, Mr. Lofton sustained several broken bones.

20. Detective Sinclair and the defendants acted maliciously and intentionally, and said acts are examples of gross police misconduct.

21. As a direct and proximate result of the malicious and outrageous conduct of defendants set forth above, Mr. Lofton suffered injuries including but not limited to emotional trauma, harm and distress, mental anguish, serious physical injuries including a broken nose, a broken orbital bone, and fractured arm, loss of liberty, psychological injury and suffering, and permanent disfigurement.

22. Plaintiff JOSEPH LOFTON is no longer able to engage in daily activities he once performed due to the injuries he sustained from the defendants' assault upon him.

23. The conduct of the defendant police officers in assaulting the plaintiff and denying him medical attention directly and proximately caused serious physical and emotional injury, pain and suffering, mental anguish, humiliation and embarrassment.

24. The arrest of the plaintiff was accomplished with the intentional use of excessive force. The defendant police officers acted with reckless and wonton disregard for the rights, health, and safety of the plaintiff.

25. As a direct result of the acts alleged herein, the plaintiff has suffered severe physical injury and pain, severe mental pain and anguish, and severe emotional distress. He has suffered head injuries, permanent disfigurement, a broken arm, among other injuries. All of the events complained of above have left permanent emotional scars that the plaintiff will carry with him for the remainder of his life.

FIRST CLAIM

DEPRIVATION OF RIGHTS UNDER EIGHTH AND FOURTEENTH

AMENDMENTS AND 42 U.S.C. § 1983

26. The plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations set forth in Paragraph 1 through 25 as if fully set forth herein.

27. The conduct and actions of defendant DETECTIVE EDMUND SINCLAIR and all other defendant officers, acting under color of law and under his authority as a New York City Police Officer, in deliberately punching and kicking the plaintiff, was done intentionally, maliciously, with a deliberate indifference and/or with a reckless disregard for the natural and probable consequences of his acts, was done without lawful justification, and was designed to and did cause specific serious bodily harm, pain and suffering in violation of the plaintiff's Constitutional rights as guaranteed under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, and the Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution.

28. As a direct and proximate result of police misconduct and abuse of authority detailed above, plaintiff sustained the damages hereinbefore alleged.

SECOND CLAIM

RESPONDEAT SUPERIOR LIABILITY OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK AND NEW YORK CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR STATE LAW VIOLATIONS

29. The plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations set forth in Paragraphs 1 through 28 as if fully set forth herein.

30. The conduct of defendant DETECTIVE EDWARD SINCLAIR and all other defendant officers mentioned herein, occurred while they were on duty, and in and during the course and scope of their duties and functions as New York City police officers, and while they were acting as agents and employees and defendants CITY OF NEW YORK and NEW YORK CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT, and as a result the defendants CITY OF NEW YORK and NEW YORK CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT are liable to the plaintiff pursuant to the state common law doctrine of respondeat superior.

31. As a direct and proximate result of police misconduct and abuse of authority detailed above, plaintiff sustained the damages hereinbefore alleged.

THIRD CLAIM

ASSAULT AND BATTERY

32. The plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations set forth in Paragraphs 1 through 31 as if fully set forth herein.

33. By the actions described above, defendants SINCLAIR and other officers mentioned herein, did inflict assault and battery upon the plaintiff. The acts and conduct of the defendants were the direct proximate cause of injury and damage to the plaintiff and violated the statutory and common law rights as guaranteed by his laws and Constitution of the State of New York.

34. As a result of the foregoing, the plaintiff sustained painful permanent injuries to his body and was made ill.

35. As a direct and proximate result of police misconduct and abuse of authority detailed above, plaintiff sustained the damages hereinbefore alleged.

FOURTH CLAIM

INTENTIONAL INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS

36. The plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations set forth in Paragraphs 1 through 35 as if fully set forth herein.

37. By the actions described above, defendants SINCLAIR and other officers mentioned herein, engaged in extreme and outrageous conduct, conduct utterly intolerable in a civilized community, which intentionally caused severe emotional distress to the plaintiff. The acts and conduct of the defendants were there direct and proximate cause of injury and damage to the plaintiff and violated his statutory and common law rights as guaranteed him by the laws and Constitution of the State of New York.

38. As a result of the foregoing, the plaintiff was made ill, was subjected to great humiliation, and was otherwise damaged and injured.

39. As a direct and proximate result of police misconduct and abuse of authority detailed above, plaintiff sustained the damages hereinbefore alleged.

SIXTH CLAIM

NEGLIGENCE

40. The plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations set forth in Paragraphs 1 through 39 as if full set forth herein.

41. The defendants, jointly and severally, negligently caused severe physical injuries, denied medical treatment, and caused extreme emotional distress to the plaintiff. The acts and conduct of the defendants were the direct and proximate cause of injury and damage to the plaintiff and violated his statutory and common law rights guaranteed him by the laws and Constitution of the State of New York.

42. As a result of the foregoing, the plaintiff sustained permanent painful injuries, was made ill, was subjected to great humiliation and emotional distress, was deprived of liberty and detained, and was otherwise damaged and injured.

43. As a direct and proximate result of police misconduct and abuse of authority detailed above, plaintiff sustained the damages hereinbefore alleged.

SEVENTH CLAIM

EXCESSIVE USE OF FORCE

42 U.S.C. § 1983

44. The plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations set forth in Paragraph 1 through 43 as if fully set forth herein.

45. The conduct and actions of defendant DETECTIVE EDMUND SINCLAIR and all other defendant officers, acting under color of law and under his authority as a New York City Police Officer, in deliberately punching and kicking the plaintiff, was done intentionally, maliciously, with a deliberate indifference and/or with a reckless disregard for the natural and probable consequences of his acts, was done without lawful justification, and was designed to and did cause specific serious bodily harm, pain and suffering in violation of the plaintiff's Constitutional rights as guaranteed under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, and the Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution.

46. As a direct and proximate result of police misconduct and abuse of authority detailed above, plaintiff sustained the damages hereinbefore alleged.

REQUEST FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, plaintiff demands judgment against the defendants, jointly and severally as follows:

- A. In favor of the plaintiff in the amount of Five Million (\$10,000,000.00) Dollars;
- B. Awarding plaintiff punitive damages in the amount of Five Million (\$5,000,000.00) Dollars on each of the plaintiff's Causes of Action;

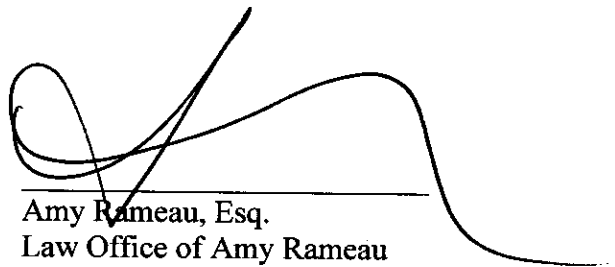
- C. Awarding plaintiff reasonable attorney's fees, costs and disbursements of this action;
- D. Granting such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff demands a jury trial.

Dated:

August 29, 2013
Brooklyn, New York

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amy Rameau', is written over a horizontal line.

Amy Rameau, Esq.
Law Office of Amy Rameau
16 Court St, Suite 2504
Brooklyn, NY 11241

VERIFICATION

STATE OF NEW YORK)

ss..

COUNTY OF KINGS)

Joseph Lofton, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

That he is the Plaintiff in this matter; that he has read the foregoing Complaint; that he knows the contents thereof; that the same is true to his own knowledge, except as to those matters therein stated to be alleged upon information and belief, and that as to those matters he believes them to be true.


Joseph Lofton

Subscribed and sworn to before
Me this 29th day of August 2013


NOTARY PUBLIC

JOSEPH RUSSO
Notary Public, State of New York
No. 02RU6021567
Qualified in Kings County
Commission Expires March 15, 2015